

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A structure, comprising:

a metallic material having a surface, the metallic surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere, wherein,

said chromium-oxide passivation film has pin holes, and
said pin holes are sealed.

6. (previously presented) An article, comprising:

a metallic body having a surface, the metallic body surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A structure, comprising:

a metallic body having a surface, the metallic body surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere, wherein,

the metallic body surface defines a continuous boundary between the metallic body and the chromium-oxide deposit.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A structure, comprising:

a metallic material having a surface, the metallic surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere, wherein,

at least an outermost surface of the chromium-oxide passivation film consisting of substantially 100% chromium-oxide.

14. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 5, wherein said chromium-oxide passivation film does not substantially include an element of said metallic material.

15. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said metallic material is stainless steel.

16. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said element is Fe or Ni.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The structure according to claim 5, wherein said chromium-oxide passivation film is free from cracks.

19. (new) The structure according to claim 6, wherein, said chromium-oxide passivation film has pin holes, and said pin holes are sealed.

20. (new) The structure according to claim 9, wherein, said chromium-oxide passivation film has pin holes, and said pin holes are sealed.

21. (new) The structure according to claim 13, wherein, said chromium-oxide passivation film has pin holes, and said pin holes are sealed.